

Controlling a destination terminal from an originating terminal

The amount of control that a calling party has over a destination terminal has been very restricted. For example, when making an extremely urgent call to a busy terminal, the caller is unable to free up the busy terminal by causing the call that is currently in progress to be dropped. The present invention provides a method by which an originating terminal is able to control a destination terminal by sending signalling protocol messages to that destination terminal. The caller associates computer software code with the signalling protocol messages such that when the messages are received at a destination processor the computer software code is executed (subject to any security and access requirements). For example, the messages may be improved SIP protocol messages with incorporated Java code. By selecting different computer software code for association with the messages, the caller is able to control the destination terminal. For example, to display information about the identity of the caller at the destination terminal; to modify the behaviour of the destination terminal according to the priority of the call; to take into account the configuration of the destination terminal, and to allow users to adjust this configuration from a remote location.